



Rio Tinto Ridgeway Gold Mine Office  
PO Box 1240  
Lugoff, SC 29078

March 10, 2018

**Sent via Electronic Mail and Overnight Courier**

Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
Attn: Chief, New Jersey Remediation Branch, Pohatcong Site  
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

New Jersey Superfund Branch  
Office of Regional Counsel  
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2  
290 Broadway, 17th Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Attention: Attorney for Pohatcong Site

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
ATTN.: Fred Mumford  
380 Scotch Road  
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628  
(*via electronic mail only*)

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 17**  
**Reporting Period February 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018**  
**Operable Unit 3**  
**Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site**  
**Warren County, New Jersey**

Dear Pohatcong Consent Decree Notice Recipients:

On behalf of Pechiney Plastics Packaging, Inc. (PPPI), the Primary Settling Defendant for the Remedial Design/Remedial Action Consent Decree (CD)<sup>1</sup>, this monthly progress report is submitted in compliance with section X, paragraph 30 of the CD and section IV.A of the

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<sup>1</sup> In the matter of United States of America v. PPPI (Civil Action No. 09-cv-05692) and United States of America v. Bristol Myers Squibb Company, et. al. (Civil Action No. 13-cv-05798) effective March 11, 2015.

Statement of Work for Remedial Design and Remedial Action for Operable Unit 3 (OU3 SOW)<sup>2</sup> of the Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund (PVGCS) Site. As required by the OU3 SOW, this report provides a description of the actions and activities undertaken pursuant to the CD during this reporting period and plans, actions and data scheduled in the next eight weeks.

### **Actions Taken toward Compliance with Consent Decree, including Community Relations**

The following activities were performed during this reporting period:

- Approval of the *Remedial Design Work Plan* and *Quality Assurance Project Plan Revision 9* was received from USEPA via email on February 7, 2018.
- The Monthly Progress Report for OU3 for the January 2018 reporting period was submitted to the USEPA in correspondence dated February 9, 2018.
- A revised comment on the *Remedial Design Work Plan* related to the location and installation of proposed monitoring wells POHMW48 and POHMW49 was received from USEPA via email on February 26, 2018.
- Mobilization of equipment to the site in support of planned Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) activities planned in accordance with the *Remedial Design Work Plan* was initiated on February 26, 2018.

### **Problems Encountered, Actions Taken and Their Resolutions**

The following problems were encountered during this reporting period:

- None.

### **Analytical Results and Data Received During the Reporting Period**

The following analytical data were received during this reporting period:

- None.

### **Modifications to the OU3 Work Plans or Schedules**

The following modifications to Work Plans for OU3 or other schedules proposed to USEPA were submitted during this reporting period:

- None.

### **Anticipated Plans, Actions and Data Scheduled, including Community Relations (during the Next 8 weeks)**

The following activities are planned for the next eight weeks:

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<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Section VI. Paragraph 12.c(1) of the CD, USEPA approval of the OU3 SOW was received on June 26, 2017.

- Final versions of the *Remedial Design Work Plan* and *Quality Assurance Project Plan Revision 9* will be submitted.

- Initiation of drilling activities for the PDI activities that will be performed in accordance with the *Remedial Design Work Plan* is planned for March 9, 2018.

### **Estimate of the Percentage of the Work Completed**

The following provides a qualified estimate of the percentage of the Work required by the CD that has been completed through this reporting period:

- Less than 1% of the work required under the OU3 SOW has been completed to date.

### **Delays Encountered or Anticipated, and Efforts Taken to Mitigate**

The following delays were encountered during this reporting period:

- None.

### **Closing**

Pursuant to section X, paragraph.30 of the CD, three hard copies of this monthly progress report have been submitted to the designated recipients. If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly progress report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Duckett", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Roy Duckett  
Nominated Project Coordinator OU3

cc: *via electronic mail*

Michelle Grainger – USEPA, Region 2

Lauren Piana – Rio Tinto

Bruce White – Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Bruce Kennington – Project Coordinator OU1 and nominated Project Coordinator OU3